

FY14-15: Early Warnings of FR Needs at Pilot Hard Rock Mining sites \$75k

Work with OSRTI and OSRE to continue to pilot the early use of CERCLA Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) authorities at operating hard rock mining sites to identify and address potential problems/violations early and to determine the amount of financial responsibility required for closure and potential long-term care water management at these sites. The PA/SIs at these sites can assist the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery in gaining additional data to support the development of the cost estimating methodology being developed for the CERCLA 108(b) Financial Responsibility Rule for the hard rock mining sector.

OSRE proposes funding of \$75,000, to be used at up to three additional active mining sites. EPA Regions 9 and 10 have already identified potential sites and have expressed interest in pursuing PA/SIs at these sites, but have been unable to pursue these sites further because of a lack of resources. OSRE will work with these and other Regions to identify and formally propose additional sites, with Superfund status prevention, significant resource savings, and informing the 108(b) Rule process as primary goals.

With minimal up-front expenditures, EPA identified potential problems at sites in Regions 8 and 10 (Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine and Thompson Creek Mine, respectively) and, by addressing identified problems, took a significant step toward establishing appropriate financial responsibility requirements and preventing these mine sites from becoming future Superfund sites.